

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, and 23-26 are all of the pending claims. Claims 4, 5, 11, and 13-21 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1, 10, and 26 are independent.

Applicant has canceled withdrawn claims 4, 5, 11, and 13-21 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the recitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 so that it recites all of the recitations of allowed dependent claim 25, and has re-written claim 26 in independent form.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wakai et al. (US 4,442,493) in view of Kiyohara et al. (US 6,302,602).

With respect to independent claim 1, this rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 1 discussed above. Applicant also respectfully submits that dependent claims 3, 7, 8, 23, and 24 are patentable at least because of their dependency from claim 1.

Finally, independent claim 10 has been amended in to include subject matter similar to the allowable subject matter of claim 1. That is, independent claim 10 has been amended to recite that the movable blade comprises a disk which is rotatably supported, and the receiving element comprises a roller which is rotatably supported. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of amended, independent claim 10.

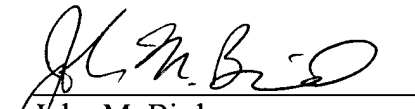
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/909,988

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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